

ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Schizophrenia is a serious psychological disorder that affects not only the mental health but also the general as well as oral health. Schizophrenic patients are often found to be less conscious about their Dental problems which leads to complicated outcomes and increased prevalence of Dental diseases among them. The aim of the study is to compare the Oral hygiene and Dental caries status among patients with schizophrenia between outpatients in Government Hospitals and institutionalized individuals in Chennai city.

Materials and Methods:

A total of 174 patients with schizophrenia were taken among which 42 outpatients were from a Government Hospital and 132 institutionalized individuals were from two different institutions for schizophrenic patients. At first, their demographic data were obtained and they were classified modifying the WHO's seven group criteria into four age groups: 15-30 years, 31-45 years, 46-60 years and above 60 years. Their Oral hygiene and Dental caries status was screened by the trained investigator and evaluated with the help of Debris Index – Simplified (DI-S), Calculus Index – Simplified (CI-S), Oral Hygiene Index – Simplified (OHI-S) and Decayed – Missing – Filled Tooth Index (DMFT). The data regarding their Oral hygiene and Dental caries status were compared between two genders, between the four age groups and between the three institutions.

Result:

Institutionalised individuals from the two different institutions showed better Oral hygiene status (mean OHI-S score 2.1 ± 1.09 and 2.0 ± 1.04) and Dental caries status (mean DMFT score 4.9 ± 6.75 and 3.7 ± 5.34) than that of the outpatients of the Government Hospital (mean OHI-S score 2.9 ± 1.30 and mean DMFT score 6.4 ± 4.37). Kruskal Wallis test and Bonferroni adjusted Mann Whitney U test showed that the significant difference in the Oral hygiene and Dental

caries status exists between male and female patients, between the patients from the predefined four age groups and between the patients from different institutions. Pearson Chi Square value confirmed that the differences in the 'Good', 'Fair' and 'Poor' status of Oral hygiene among the patients from different institutions are statistically significant.

Conclusions:

As the outpatients were found to have poorer Oral hygiene and Dental caries status than the institutionalised individuals, the family members of the outpatients should be educated about the harmful effects of poor Oral health and motivated to help their patients to practice good Oral hygiene on a routine basis. They should also be advised for frequent Dental check up to prevent any further complication.

Key Words: Schizophrenia, Oral Hygiene, Dental caries, Institutionalized individuals, Dental College/Institution, Medical College/Institution, Government Hospital